

FAQs: Election Procedures: What Election Officials Should Know

Q: Are we sending Election Inspectors to Nursing Homes for the April Election?

A: Hi Carla, Thanks for the question. Our Commission will be taking up this issue during their 3/2 public meeting. Once a decision is made, we will send that information to clerks ASAP.

Q: How can we get the slides? In the future, could you include them with the original presentation so we could print them out ahead of time?

A: Hi Kelly: The slides were posted yesterday and you can find the materials here: <https://elections.wi.gov/node/7353>

Q: Will you be updating the acceptable photo ID sheet that has the expiration date information with the 2020 rather than 2018 date? That one is really helpful. Thanks!

A: Hi Jill, we have posted updated versions of the photo ID documents and several of them can be found here: <https://elections.wi.gov/node/3609>. Let us know if you are referring to something else and we can point you to updated versions of that document.

Q: Please talk about out of state photo IDs?

A: Out of state photo IDs cannot be used in Wisconsin as photo IDs.

Q: So, voters can come in without masks during this pandemic? I am confused.

A: Nancy, thanks for the question. Our guidance on this has been consistent that masks cannot be required, but they are recommended. We cannot add additional qualifications that are outside of state and federal law that governs voting.

Q: What about a passport with a different State listed?

A: It may be used for photo ID. Passports typically list the state they were issued in, but do not include an address, which is not necessary to use it as photo ID.

Q: Many poll workers and clerks use medical and insurance statements for POR. Can you explain why these items cannot be used?

A: If they are issued by a unit of government, they can be used for POR, otherwise, they are documents issued by a private business which is not allowed by statute.

Q: Can an out of state School ID be used?

A: Donna, statute defines the student ID as being issued by a WI college, uni or tech college: An unexpired identification card issued by a university or college in this state that is accredited, as defined in s. 39.30 (1) (d), or by a technical college in this state that is a member of and governed by the technical college system under Ch. 38.

Q: Thanks...because where we vote in order to enter the building masks have been required...so the question

A: Election workers can be required to wear masks, but voters cannot be required to wear masks as a condition of voting.

Q: My Chiefs would like clarification on remaking ballots with a true overvote. Should they remake the ballot without that contest?

A: Correct.

Q: In relation to Indefinitely Confined voters from February. We sent out the letter asking them if they wanted to remain on the list. Will those voters be removed from the WisVote listing if they did not return a February ballot or does that process only apply to November elections?

A: Indefinitely confined voters should be sent the 30-day letter if they do not return a ballot for an April, November or special election.

Q: Please review how numbers are assigned for remaking ballots. The workers here always 1 and 2, no matter how many remakes they have.

A: They use a sequential number system so the original ballot and remade ballot could be matched up if needed, so 1 (original ballot) and 1 (remade ballot); 2 (original ballot) and 2 (remade ballot) and so on.

Q: If allowed by municipality, the "overvoted" ballot do not have to be remade if voter intent is not determined and they can just override the error on the machine, right?

A: Yes, that is the correct procedure.

Q: We did send the letter, but will the Elections Commission automatically delete these people from WisVote or will we need to deal with each person's application accordingly?

A: That will be up to the clerk to do.

Q: How do you determine intent on an overvote?

A: How many votes is the voter entitled to for the office? Did the voter write-in a candidate? Is the candidate a registered write-in or is this a contest where the inspectors count all write-ins? Please see the April Election Readiness webinar for more tips and a walk through of counting votes procedures.

Q: When new applications come in for an Absentee Ballot, and the Wisconsin Driver's License noted as current on file has expired to the date of last Presidential Election, do we decline the Absentee request and notify the applicant the need for an updated Photo ID in order to accept their application?

A: No, under current law, once a by mail absentee voter submits an acceptable form of photo ID, they do not have to submit another one to vote by mail, unless they change their name or address.

Q: When you refer to the Original Ballots Envelope, this is the ballot contain or box or envelope where the ballots are sealed and secured/sealed to be turned into the county clerk following the election? Is this correct?

A: It is an envelope with "original ballots" listed on it and it is placed with the other ballots in the ballot container. It has kept separate in the event there are questions about the ballot.

Q: Write ins on over votes-could you explain registered write ins vs nonregistered and if write ins will be used rather than the oval circled next to persons name on ballot

A: Good point, Felicia. We will cover counting votes on the next webinar and will not be discussing this today. We will add it to the list though.

Q: What if a military voter returns home the day before the election and have no POR for their new address?

A: Military voters are exempt from voter registration requirements under state law so they do not have to register or show POR.

Q: The Friday before the election is Good Friday, how is that going to affect mail and deadlines and office availability?

A: Per state law, Good Friday is not a state (or federal) holiday so you or someone in your office must be available for voter registration opportunities and honoring absentee requests. You can post contact information on your office door, website and voice message.

Q: Would not credit card statements and some utility bills be considered private companies for POR?

A: State law specifically allows for these documents to be used as POR. Statute does not specifically list medical bills or insurance docs as POR, but they might qualify as government documents.

Q: Are we still required to collect a new copy of photo ID on absentee applications?

A: Not for by mail, once they have submitted the ID for by mail absentee, they do not have to submit another one.

Q: Not POR, photo ID, for temp overseas/military

A: Military voters do not have to provide photo ID to vote absentee Temp overseas voter, once they have supplied it, do not have to do it again.

Q: I had a poll worker ask me about the law that says a voter who cannot speak has other options than stating name out loud, but I cannot find that in the election day manual.

A: The voter can have another person or election inspector state their name and address on their behalf if they are unable to do so. A voter may have an assistant state their name and address on their behalf. An election official can be an assistant.

Q: How do we know they are military if no POR or photo ID?

A: The voter certifies this when requesting an absentee ballot., they are required to show photo ID if they vote in person on election day or during in-person absentee. they do not have to provide photo ID when voting by mail. They will indicate military status on their absentee application.

Q: Can a provisional ballot be issued to someone who registers on election day? I.e., they filled in the DL information on the form but did not bring it or any other photo id to be able to vote. (they used a different proof of residence).

A: Yes, they would be registered so they would be eligible for a provisional ballot.

Q: IF they do not have website post on door?

A: Yes.

Q: Do the clerk's need to post notice if there are '0' to show no Provisionals or do we need to only post the number if there are outstanding Provisionals?

A: You can to ensure anyone interested that the information was just not listed.

Q: Price County will include provisional number with the election results on the county website.

A: Thanks Jean!

Q: Would the County Clerk's website be sufficient for Provision Ballot number postings?

A: Yes, if people knew to look on the county's website.

Q: Using Badger Book, how would you handle provisional registration?

A: Please follow the guidance in the Election Day Manual. There is no Badger Book specific process.

Q: Someone sent their Absentee Ballot and came to the polls on election day and ballot still was not received, can they do a provisional ballot.

A: No, they cannot. State law only allows for provisional ballots to be issued for the 2 specific reasons stated during the webinar and in the manual.

Q: Please remind election inspectors to use the incident log with any of these issues. This helps with Canvass. Thank you!

A: Thanks, Barb! We will do that in a minute.

Q: Why can't voters drop off ballots into the office or drop box until absentee voting starts?

A: State statutes do not allow an absentee ballot request to be dropped off at the clerk's office or drop box until in person absentee voting starts, no earlier than 14 days before the election, but absentee ballots may be dropped off prior to that date.

Q: Please review how the poll workers should handle voters who are issued an absentee ballot but have not returned it and show up to vote on election day.

A: The inspectors will see a watermark on the poll book and/or notation on the absentee ballot log that the voter was issued an absentee ballot. The inspectors ask if the ballot was returned. If the voter did not return the ballot, the voter may vote at the polling place.

Q: So, if a clerk gets a Calendar Year request 5 pm Friday before, do we have to fill it that night for that election?

A: Yes, that is a valid request under state law. You must issue the ballot. There are other deadlines the Friday before the election the clerk must be available for, such as voter registration and absentee ballot requests from indefinitely confined voters and military voters.

Q: Suggestion for the MyVote Website: Could a pop-up be developed when a person applies for a calendar year request? It would pop up to ask them to confirm they are requesting absentee ballots for the entire year. If they select YES, give them a message that states, this means you will receive ballots for all elections through the end of 2021. To receive ballots in 2022, you will have to make a new request next year, 1/1/2022. Not all voters understand they must make a new request each year.

A: Thank you for the feedback. We will pass this along to the WisVote team!

Q: Thank you for this webinar. All the webinars have been invaluable!

A: Thanks, we are glad they have been helpful!